

**From:** [O'Connor,D](#)  
**To:** [GLPD.Info.Rights](#)  
**Subject:** RE: PhD Thesis by Ing-Wen Tsai  
**Date:** 16 July 2019 10:08 00

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Thanks Rachael.

Danny

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**From:** GLPD.Info.Rights  
**Sent:** 16 July 2019 10:09  
**To:** O'Connor,D <D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: PhD Thesis by Ing-Wen Tsai

Hello Danny,

Hadn't sent yet, was planning to do it today. Happy to do.

Regards,  
Rachael

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**From:** O'Connor,D  
**Sent:** 16 July 2019 10:05  
**To:** GLPD.Info.Rights <[GLPD.Info.Rights@lse.ac.uk](mailto:GLPD.Info.Rights@lse.ac.uk)>  
**Cc:** Media.Relations <[Media.Relations@lse.ac.uk](mailto:Media.Relations@lse.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: PhD Thesis by Ing-Wen Tsai

Thanks Rachael.

Just checking, have you sent this to [REDACTED] Or do you need our office to send?

Thanks,  
Danny

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**From:** GLPD.Info.Rights  
**Sent:** 15 July 2019 13:55  
**To:** Media.Relations <[Media.Relations@lse.ac.uk](mailto:Media.Relations@lse.ac.uk)>; Metcalfe,F <[F.Metcalfe@lse.ac.uk](mailto:F.Metcalfe@lse.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** FW: PhD Thesis by Ing-Wen Tsai

Hello both,

Formal response for this one below.

Dear [REDACTED],

With reference to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act, please find below the information you requested.

The facsimile of the thesis was received Friday 28 June 2019.

If you think that the information provided does not meet your request, contact me on 020 7849 4622 or write to Louise Nadal, School Secretary, London School of Economics and Political Science, Houghton Street, London, WC2A 2AE. We will then review the response to your request and get back to you within 20 working days. You can also contact the Information Commissioner's Office <http://www.ico.gov.uk/>, though they expect the internal review to be carried out before receiving a complaint directly.

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Yours sincerely,  
Rachael Maguire  
Information and Records Manager  
London School of Economics

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**From:** O'Connor,D  
**Sent:** 02 July 2019 14:53  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** GLPD.Info.Rights <[GLPD.Info.Rights@lse.ac.uk](mailto:GLPD.Info.Rights@lse.ac.uk)>; Wilson,Clive <[CLIVE.Wilson@lse.ac.uk](mailto:CLIVE.Wilson@lse.ac.uk)>; Metcalfe,F <[F.Metcalfe@lse.ac.uk](mailto:F.Metcalfe@lse.ac.uk)>; [rrmcgreg@uncc.edu](mailto:rrmcgreg@uncc.edu)

**Subject:** FW: PhD Thesis by Ing-Wen Tsai

Dear [REDACTED],

As you may not be aware, using a 'spokesperson' reference is absolutely standard practice in UK journalism.

Separately, I am copying your final request to our Fol team.

Kind regards,

Daniel O'Connor

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 July 2019 14:24  
**To:** O'Connor,D <D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: PhD Thesis by Ing-Wen Tsai

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

I will not follow your suggestion to use "An LSE Spokesperson" for media articles. This is too vague because I got responses from LSE's different levels. From LSE's different-level responses, I must say what you said about Tsai's thesis and diploma is not convincing to me. Perhaps it is time to unfold the myth. We will see what will transpire after a responsible examination. Don't you think it is weird and bizarre that Ing-Wen Tsai just recently provided the LSE Library with a facsimile copy of her thesis after years of ongoing inquiries?

As this event involves public interests, I hereby ask you for the exact date when Ing-Wen Tsai sent in her thesis recently. I made this inquiry under U.K. FOI.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On Jul 2, 2019, at 2:34 PM, O'Connor,D <[D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk](mailto:D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk)> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Please note, all material in this email can be attributed to an **LSE spokesperson**. We do not expect any individual's name to be used in subsequent articles or public communications.

Further to your message last week, the response I gave still stands. All records indicate the PhD was correctly awarded and in line with relevant procedures.

Unfortunately the thesis (which was only available as a hard copy in 1984) cannot currently be found by the University of London or the IALS but records do indicate it was received and processed at the time.

You state that Clive Wilson and his colleague said the 'PhD thesis has never been received in 1984 by Senate House Library and IALS library' in their initial response. This information appears to be incorrect.

Colleagues have made further enquiries and Senate House's **Research Degrees Unit** records *do* indicate that a copy was received. Senate House also confirmed they sent their copy of the thesis to the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies (IALS). Apologies for the confusion.

Separately, President Tsai Ing-Wen recently provided the LSE Library with a facsimile copy of the thesis, 'Unfair trade practices and safeguard actions.' This is available to view in the library's reading room.

Kind regards,

Daniel O'Connor

cc- LSE interim Director of Communications, Fiona Metcalfe and your Departmental Chair, Dr. Rob Roy McGregor, for information.

**Daniel O'Connor**  
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[lse.ac.uk](http://lse.ac.uk)

<image001.jpg>

<image004.png><image005.png><image006.jpg><image002.png><image003.jpg>

[LSE is ranked #1 in Europe for social sciences \(QS World University Ranking 2018\)](#)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 21 June 2019 21:51  
**To:** O'Connor,D <[D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk](mailto:D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk)>  
**Cc:** Wilson,Clive <[CLIVE.Wilson@lse.ac.uk](mailto:CLIVE.Wilson@lse.ac.uk)>; Orson,R <[R.Orson@lse.ac.uk](mailto:R.Orson@lse.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: PhD Thesis by Ing-Wen Tsai

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

In this email I raised some more questions regarding your email dated June 14, 2019, 9:08 am, from which you wrote:

"As previously circulated, all PhDs from that period were awarded under the University of London banner and would have been sent first to their Senate House Library. They clearly received their copy because otherwise it would not have been processed and appear on their catalogue – and from there to appear on the British Library catalogue. "

In fact, the so-called PhD thesis of Ing-Wen Tsai (1984) does not exist in both physical and digital form. That is the reason why this thesis has not been searchable in each of the three U of London libraries: LSE library, IALS library, and Senate House library. I already made a number of screen shots about my failed search of the PhD thesis just in case a proof is required in the future. I also searched all other PhDs (i.e. 106 other PhDs) in 1983-84, and all those are searchable and existent in their specific locations, except for 5 PhDs. For these missing 5 PhDs, every one has no searchable academic record. For your information, Partha Sen was my professor at the University of Illinois and my long-term friend. As a LSE graduate, he was awarded a PhD in economics in 1984, and his PhD thesis titled "Real balances and the exchange rate: theoretical and empirical analysis" is searchable and existent in LSE Library, as opposed to the case of Ing-Wen Tsai.

It is evidenced that the final copy of Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis has never been received in 1984 by Senate House Library and IALS library. This was confirmed by Ruth Orson (Library Assistant, Research Services, LSE) and Clive Wilson (Enquiry Services Manager, LSE Library) in their emails sent to me. As such, without a final copy of a PhD thesis being received at Senate House Library, how was it possible that Ing-Wen Tsai allegedly earned a PhD in law in 1984?

It is bizarre that Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis becomes searchable in the British Library catalogue using EthOS, an e-theses online service, as well as in the Google Books catalogue. This thesis is unsearchable internally in the U of London libraries (including LSE Library), but it is searchable outside of the U of London. It is bizarre, isn't?

Further, if you examine the following links to EthOS or Google Books, you will see little information about the magic PhD thesis except for the thesis title, author, and the year of 1984. There is no information about the number of pages at all and there is no workable link to the thesis one way or another.

EthOS:  
<https://ethos.bl.uk/OrderDetails.do?did=1&uin=uk.bl.ethos.652034>

Google Books:  
<https://books.google.com/books?id=IRwIvWfEACAAJ&dq=unfair+trade+practices+and+safeguard+actions&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewicioTVnvviAhXLm-AKHRtMBMgQ6AEIKDAA>

Even more bizarre is that the magic thesis was published in 1984 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, the United States according to a famous thesis search engine called ProQuest, as the attached image file indicates. How could it be possible that a PhD thesis completed in 1984 in UK got published right away in the same year in the US?

Is it possible that someone made and uploaded information to the EthOS system, Google Books, and ProQuest in order to cover Ing-Wen Tsai as President of Republic of China (Taiwan)? To me, I cannot preclude this possibility.

Lastly, let me provide some more information about Ing-Wen Tsai. She studied at LSE for less than three years (about 2 years and 6 months; correct me if I am wrong). In such a short-term period, she claimed that she completed a PhD thesis in law in 1984. She then returned to Taiwan for a teaching position in 1984, and with almost no publications, she

got promoted to Full Professor within 7 to 8 years. Can we question her integrity as a scholar and as a political leader? I sincerely LSE can be responsible and truthful in dealing with Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis and degree issues.

I contacted you all for a public interest issue under UK FOI, and I am looking forward to your clarifications regarding the true situation of Ing-Wen Tsai's PhD thesis and degree.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

On Fri, Jun 14, 2019 at 5:21 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

Thank you very much for your replies along with the attached pages of the Calendar of 1985/86.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On Jun 14, 2019, at 9:08 AM, O'Connor,D <[D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk](mailto:D.O'Connor@lse.ac.uk)> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence, I have been asked to respond with some more information.

Further to your remarks, the records of both the London School of Economics and Political Science and the University of London confirm that Tsai Ing-Wen was awarded a PhD in Law 1984 and the student record shows that the thesis was submitted.

For your interest, I have attached a scan of a relevant entry in the 'LSE Calendar' of 1985/86, which is an official public record of awards and degrees given to LSE students for the previous year.

As previously circulated, all PhDs from that period were awarded under the University of London banner and would have been sent first to their Senate House Library. They clearly received their copy because otherwise it would not have been processed and appear on their catalogue – and from there to appear on the British Library catalogue.

We have been in correspondence with the University of London about the thesis and extensive checks have been made but Senate House are presently unable to find their copy.

We are also in touch with colleagues regarding the other pieces of information requested. However, some of them are restricted by UK data protection laws.

Kind regards,

Daniel O'Connor

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[lse.ac.uk](http://lse.ac.uk)

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Dear Ruth:

Very sorry to keep bothering you on the PhD thesis matter. Here are some more questions. You said Tsai's thesis is missing from three separate places, but the libraries there should at least keep some information like the thesis's abstract and its advisor or director who directed Tsai's research. How come such important information is also missing? Or the truth is simply that the thesis has never existed, isn't it? I would greatly appreciate your thoughts on these questions.

Best regards,

[Redacted signature]

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**From:** Metcalfe,F  
**Sent:** 07 June 2019 17:25  
**To:** Cerny,MW  
**Subject:** Re: PhD Thesis by Ing-Wen Tsai

Dear Marcus,

I'm not aware that we have had any enquires on this issue? How strange that it can't be found.

What do the library advise?

Could her department help?

Please let me know

Fiona

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**From:** Cerny,MW  
**Sent:** Friday, June 7, 2019 3:37:24 PM  
**To:** Metcalfe,F  
**Subject:** FW: PhD Thesis by Ing-Wen Tsai

Dear Fiona,

Could you or a member of your team advise on this? I would expect that there may have been queries in other parts of the School following Tsai's election as President of Republic of China and we may get more queries on this.

I am unable to answer as to why the thesis is unavailable and if the thesis is not held in either Senate House or LSE Libraries I cannot see any chance of there being any other version of it elsewhere.

The email trail between the Library and the enquirer is attached.

Thanks,  
Marcus

**Marcus Cerny**  
*Deputy Director, PhD Academy*  
*London School of Economics and Political Science*  
*Houghton Street*  
*London WC2A 2AE*

**Please consider the environment and do not print this email unless absolutely necessary.**

Please access the attached hyperlink for an important electronic communications disclaimer:  
<http://lse.ac.uk/emailDisclaimer>

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 June 2019 20:09  
**To:** Phdacademy <[Phdacademy@lse.ac.uk](mailto:Phdacademy@lse.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** PhD Thesis by Ing-Wen Tsai

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Please forward any email with the link 'View entire message', or any emails that you think are suspicious, to [phishing@lse.ac.uk](mailto:phishing@lse.ac.uk) so we can check them for you.

Hello,

I have been looking for a PhD thesis by Ing-Wen Tsai, a alumna of LSE. Her thesis is titled "Unfair Trade Practices and Safeguard Actions" (1984), as cited in the following link.

<https://ethos.bl.uk/OrderDetails.do?uin=uk.bl.ethos.652034>

I checked with the LSE library, but I was told that the library has never carried the above-cited thesis. This confused me.

So, if possible, could you please kindly check your thesis-deposit record and let me know whether or not Tsai's PhD thesis was submitted in 1984 as a final copy as required, and whether LSE did award a PhD degree to Ing-Wen Tsai in 1984 according to your record.

Looking forward to your kind reply and thank you very much for your valuable time.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

<LSE 1984-5 Calendar.pdf>